

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 07910 041716Z

43

ACTION ARA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4982

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 7910

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS TO AYACUCHO

REFERENCE STATE 264719

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM STEDMAN.

1. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT YOU RAISE THESE TOPICS IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH BOLIVIAN FONMIN OR PRESIDENT BANZER, I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO PROBABLY BOLIVIAN INQUIRY ABOUT WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, USG IS WILLING TO PLAY IN RESOLUTION OF TWO MAJOR BOLIVIAN CONCERNS; I.E., BOLIVIAN ACCESS TO THE SEA, AND THE POTENTIAL CHILE-PERU CONFLICT.

2. A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF THESE BOLIVIAN CONCERNS IS THE DEBATE PRESENTLY UNDERWAY IN THE GOB ON WHETHER TO PURCHASE WEAPONRY IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY AND QUALITY TO TO PROTECT ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND PERHAPS TO GIVE IT A DESTABILIZING CAPABILITY IN THE CHILE-PERU MILITARY EQUATION. IT IS MY VIEW AT THIS TIME THAT THE SCALES MIGHT BE TIPPED IN FAVOR OF THOSE WHO ADVOCATE GUNS OVER BUTTER IF THE GOB CONCLUDES TAHT THE USG IS EITHER NOT CONCERNED WITH THESE ISSUES OR HAS NO INTENTION OF PLAYING A ROLE IN THEIR POSSIBLE RESOLUTION. A GUNS OVER BUTTER
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DECISION BY THE GOB MIGHT HAVE OTHER IMPLICATIONS FOR THE

NATURE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS HERE AND IF THEY WENT TOO FAR MIGHT HAVE NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. GOB INTEREST IN HELP AND SUPPORT FROM US IS GROWING AND DISCUSSIONS WITH US BECOMING MORE POINTED. SUBJECT WAS RAISED CLEARLY AND REQUENTLY WITH LUIGI EINAUDI DURING HIS VISIT HERE NOVEMBER 27-30.

3. GOB REPRESENTATIVES MAY ALSO MENTION TO YOU THEIR BELIEF THAT 1975 WILL BE A TOUGH ONE FOR THEM FINANCIALLY AND "SPECIAL ASSISTANCE" SUCH AS PROGRAM LOANS WOULD BE WELCOME. WE DON NOT YET HAVE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS WHICH WOULD ENABLE US TO COMMENT ON 1975 SITUATION, BUT WE UNDERSTAND GOB PLANNED TAKE ECONOMIC MEASURES TO IMPROVE 1975 PROSPECTS. WE HAVE ALREADY SIGNALLED VIRTUAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF NEW PROGRAM ASSISTANCE.
STEDMAN

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